

## HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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## ARE THE SUPERVISORS MISJUDGED?

It is barely possible that Honolulu has misjudged her board of supervisors and that they do not merit all of the unpleasant remarks that have at various times been made about them. Instead of being merely stupid and incompetent, as some have gone so far as to insinuate, it is possible that the city fathers are laboring under a misapprehension as to their duties and what the people elected them for, and that when this very natural mistake is pointed out to them, they will hasten to correct their errors.

If this is the case, it might be worth while to inform the lawmakers that the whole duty of a supervisor does not consist in keeping one eye on the next general election and the other on the variable voter. Such little things as building ordinances, while, of course, of little import to a municipal law-maker, really are of not a little importance to the general public, inasmuch as the general public usually does not care to take the chance of being burned out of house and home. The supervisors might, perhaps, devote a few minutes of their valuable time to passing the ordinance that has for so long reposed peacefully in the health and sanitation committee tomb. Even then the supervisors will have plenty of time left for scurrying among themselves.

Of course, the people of Honolulu are proud of the oratorical abilities of their lordly masters, and when there is nothing else to compete with Berger's band, are always willing to listen to the rolling periods of Supervisor Aylett, the wit of Supervisor Quinn, the cryptic remarks of Supervisor McClellan and the mellifluous tones of Supervisors Logan, Kane, Cox and Abia. But much as the public that pays the supervisors their \$50 each a month admires the Demosthenic efforts of the great ones, it would admire still more a decent pavement on some of the down town streets. Some of the tax payers are even inconsiderate enough to believe that the supervisors might profitably take a little time from supervisory amenities and consider the matter of laying sidewalks around the schoolhouse grounds of the city. The fact that four of the supervisors voted in favor of the paving ordinance indicates that they already have some faint idea of their reason for being.

It appears possible, as was stated above, that the city fathers have not clearly understood these things and that, when it is borne in upon their comprehension that the public really does expect them to look a little after the welfare of the city instead of exclusively after their own welfare, they will hasten to do what they can in the little time that is left them before they give way to their successors.

Doubtless they will begin with that little matter of the building ordinance before mentioned. Even if, as one supervisor intimates, the passage of the ordinance should result in the loss of a block of some six hundred Chinese votes, the courageous city fathers will not mind a little thing like that. And, anyway, it will not make much difference in the general result in the end, for, as most of the supervisors can't be reelected, anyway, they might as well be defeated by six hundred votes more.

Honolulu doesn't expect too much from her supervisors. In fact, the city is getting so it expects nothing. So a little attention to business and a little less devotion to petty politics will come as a pleasant surprise to the public.

## DIAZ OF MEXICO.

Among the world's rulers President Diaz, of Mexico, holds high place, says The Outlook. He started his rule as dictator. When we consider the appalling conditions and characteristics of the Mexico of a generation ago, General Diaz's dictatorial methods become easy of comprehension. He ruled by fear. He now rules largely by the appeal of reasonableness. He has a distinct genius for leadership, whether as dictator or as constitutional president. He governs his country with wonderful skill. Hence he is respected and admired by most Mexicans. Not the least result of the thirty-year Diaz period of presidential power is the growth of a strong middle class in Mexico—the hope of any country. Economically General Diaz has done as much for his country as he has done politically. He has encouraged the development of Mexican natural resources with such an efficiency as to win the admiration of those who disapproved, and who still disapprove, some of his political methods. He has the confidence of practically all foreigners. Not the least valuable feature of Senor Godoy's just-published and rather undiscriminatingly laudatory "Porfirio Diaz" are the pages devoted to the appreciation of the President by Americans. Of these the most important seem to be those written by President Taft and Senator Root. President Taft says:

It has been to me a pleasure and honor to meet that great man to whom more than to any other one person is due the greatness of the Mexican Republic.

And Senator Root says:

It has seemed to me that of all the men now living President Diaz, of Mexico, was best worth seeing. Whether one considers the adventurous, daring, chivalric incidents of his early career, whether one considers the vast work of government which his wisdom and courage and commanding character accomplished; whether one considers the singularly attractive personality, to one lives today whom I would rather see than President Diaz.

## MEN WANTED, NOT MONEY.

The decision of the advisory land board to dispose of the Makiki Valley town lots by allotment instead of by sale at public auction to the highest bidder signifies the doing away with one of the worst defects of the old land law and emphasizes the dictum of the board announced at its meetings last week and yesterday that what the Territory of Hawaii wants chiefly is men, not money.

Under the old system of selling public land at auction, men were often sacrificed to money and at times even the deliberate attempts of the authorities to sell the land to homesteaders at a reasonable figure were frustrated by the foolishness or excitement of the purchasers who would run the prices up far above what circumstances and conditions warranted. Land Commissioner Campbell made the statement yesterday that some of the Kapana lots which had been appraised at about \$12 sold at public auction for more than \$600, and to men entirely unable to afford to pay any such prices, even if the land were worth them, which it was not. The system sometimes resulted in unintentional cruelty and hardship. More than that, it gave the advantage to the man who had the longest purse. The new system gives the poor man an equal chance with the rich. At the same time, it protects the rich man from any attempts on the part of others to run prices up on him.

The amendments to the Organic Act are working a revolution in land matters in this Territory, the far-reaching effects of which are only just now beginning to be appreciated.

## A JOB FOR A HERCULES.

Through long familiarity with charges of graft made against municipal authorities we have become so accustomed to the idea of graft that we almost think sometimes that bribe-giving and bribe-taking are a necessary and important part of the administration of our big cities. Even the exposure of a Reef and a Schmitz serve to awake little more than passing interest and there is no shock of horror when San Francisco under a McCarthy returns to her vomit.

But even Americans are not yet so blasé that they are not disagreeably affected when the slimy trail of the beast is found leading up the broad steps and into the sacred chambers of the national legislature. One begins to wonder just where it is all to end, or if there is any end. Within the past few weeks it has been openly charged that Senator Lorimer bought his way into the senate with bribes. The legislative graft scandals in Albany appear to be closely connected with the national legislature. And now comes the startling charges made by Senator Gore of Oklahoma, one of the most responsible members of congress, that he has been offered a bribe of \$50,000 to vote for a measure which directly affects large financial interests.

It begins to look as if a Hercules were badly needed to clean from the Augean stables of legislation the odorous filth of graft.

When a government official "washes his hands of" an honest and efficient police officer, there is always somebody to suggest that perhaps they needed washing.

## ABBOTT ON PROHIBITION.

The afternoon organ of the liquor dealers has indulged in frequent quotations from the writings of Lyman Abbott, editor of The Outlook, in an endeavor to show that he is on the same side as the liquor dealers in the matter of prohibition. The following letter from Mr. Abbott, written in February last, addressed to T. M. Gilmore, president of the Model License League, has not been quoted by the liquor dealers' organ, however. Mr. Abbott wrote:

I regret that a pressure of special duties has prevented me from earlier answering your letter of January 25. The figures which you give indicate that the evil is far greater than I had supposed, and the necessity for reform more urgent. I think that all physicians are agreed that the use of alcohol, except in connection with meals or as a special medicine, is always injurious. Most physicians are agreed that distilled liquors should be used only medicinally, and as medicine, with great caution. All physicians are agreed that the excessive use of alcohol is a most prolific cause of disease, all sociologists that it is a prolific cause of poverty, and all penologists that it is a prolific cause of crime. If distilled liquors are used to the extent that your figures indicate, and I must assume their accuracy, that use would go far to account for the disease, the poverty, and the crime which are three of the great burdens which the Nation is carrying. You ask me what I would do, in view of this state of facts. I would use all my influence to persuade my fellow-citizens not to patronize or support the saloons; second, to educate both the children and the adults to a rational understanding of the perils involved in an excessive use of alcohol; third, I would leave to each locality the question what measures it would take for the regulation of the saloon, and I WOULD GIVE TO EVERY LOCALITY THE POWER TO PROHIBIT IT ALTOGETHER. In my judgment, the moral and educational reform is more important because more fundamental than legislative reform; and no particular legislative reform can be prescribed alike for all localities, but each locality must be left free to adopt such methods as public opinion will support and enforce.

## TO BE SURE OF GOOD MEN.

In the opinion of The Advertiser it would not only be good sense, but good politics, for the Republicans in the coming campaign to endorse the candidacy of R. H. Trent for reelection as city treasurer, and for the Democrats to endorse the candidacies of James Bicknell as auditor and D. Kalaokalani as city clerk.

Each of the three officials has served with absolutely clean records. Not one of them has made of his office a partisan political headquarters. The record of each justifies the average voter in supporting him for the sake of retaining his services for the city.

From the political point of view, it would be extremely hard, if at all possible, to nominate candidates to contest the elections of any one of these three with any reasonable prospect of success. Any incompetent man would be defeated and very probably every competent man would. The best that could be expected in the defeat of any of the three would be to get a man as good.

Without the prospect of bettering conditions from an economic standpoint and with the prospect of sending good men to defeat by nominating them against Trent, Bicknell and Kalaokalani, when there are not enough available good men to go round for the positions that will have to be fought for, it would seem to be a matter of good judgment as well as good politics for the party leaders to swap endorsements in these cases.

Men good enough to run for any one of the three positions in question would be good enough to run for membership on the board of supervisors and for the legislature.

The endorsing of a candidate by a convention politically opposed is not uncommon in American municipal politics. It is done somewhere in practically every election.

## THE TOURIST SEASON.

Everything indicates that the summer tourist season this year is going to be even better than that of last year, which was the largest up to that time. Kamaainas who for many years have been accustomed to seeing the same faces on the streets day after day are continually remarking now in a tone of almost aggrieved astonishment, "I don't seem to know anybody any more; there are so many new faces on the street."

And it's true. The town is full of strangers, those who have come to see and have been conquered. The street cars are doing a bigger business than ever, which is infallible proof that there are more people here. The steamships from the Coast are arriving with big passenger lists and few empty staterooms.

Heretofore Honolulu has been considered on the mainland by tourists as a winter resort. But now they seem to be learning that it is an unequalled summer resort as well. Let this be once generally understood and Hawaii's tourist season will last twelve months in the year. That is a kind of continuous performance we can well stand.

## OF INTEREST TO BEE MEN.

Much information along practical lines in bee keeping can be found in a new publication of the department of agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin 397, entitled, "Bees." The aim of this work is to give briefly the information needed by persons engaged in the keeping of bees, and to answer inquiries that are frequently received from correspondents of the department. It discusses the location, equipment, and stocking of the apiary, the habits of bees and their manipulation, the production of honey and wax, diseases and injuries. It also gives such general information as how to obtain and introduce queens, laws affecting bee keeping, and journals and books on the subject. This publication can be obtained free as long as the supply lasts, by applying to the secretary of agriculture, Washington, D. C.; it may also be secured from senators, representatives, and delegates in congress.

Roosevelt was cutting down trees when the interviewers found him, after his discussion of the merits of insurgency yesterday with the Wisconsin Insurgent. Press despatches as yet fail to state whether Roosevelt said he had done it with his little hatchet or whether he excused himself while he did some "rail splitting." It is a certainty, however, that he hinted during his interviews that being either a Washington or a Lincoln would not be too much for the man who bearded the British Lion in his den and scolded the French nation for its sins.

If \$1600 additional judiciously expended would be sufficient to insure Honolulu some paved streets in the downtown section, the city could well afford to put up that amount itself. Likewise, if several times \$1600 would give Honolulu commonsense and gumption in its board of supervisors instead of stupidity and incompetence, the money would be well spent. Fortunately, Honolulu will probably get both permanent paving and a new board of supervisors after the next general election.

The members of the territorial grand jury are demonstrating that, if they do not hail from Missouri, some of their ancestors must once have lived in that incredulous state. They want to be shown and are not willing to take the word of even the city attorney's department on matters that on their face need investigation.

The city treasury is on the verge of bankruptcy, says Supervisor Quinn. It is agonizing to think that, if the city goes broke, the mayor and supervisors may have to give up joy-riding. Think of a luan on the windward side of the Island and no money in the safe to hire an automobile!

Chief of Detectives McDuffie has proved himself an able and efficient officer and any effort on the part of those who should aid him in the enforcement of law and the punishment of crime, to nullify his work through ulterior motives all meet with scant approval from the community.

And Roosevelt says he will not talk! No does Supervisor Aylett. Aylett won't talk for \$1600. Roosevelt won't talk for less than a dollar a word. Talk is not always cheap.

After the liquor dealers cease paying three dollars a column for editorial space, it might be in order to start a new voting contest. A free trip to the Chicago stockyards might be suggested.

Honolulu can sympathize with San Francisco. The Bay City is suffering from too much Atherley. It's nearly as bad and a good deal more annoying than the graft scandals.

## Prohibition—Preventive for Suffering

By Walter B. Brinckerhoff, M.D.

Editor Advertiser:—One of your correspondents has quoted me as expressing views on prohibition in opposition to those of Bishop Restarick. Although as an individual I have an unquestioned right to disagree with the Bishop of the church of which I am a member, upon a point not connected with doctrine, it is a source of deep regret to me that my views upon the liquor question should be thought to be fundamentally in conflict with those of Bishop Restarick, particularly as I have many reasons for the personal regard, admiration and affection which I feel for him both as my spiritual leader and, I hope, my friend. I am sure that no one who knows the Bishop will doubt that he deprecates the harm done by the use and abuse of alcoholic beverage and I know that he will welcome the day when alcohol finds such limited and temperate use that its harmful effects will have become a dark page in the social history of the past.

It is my purpose in writing this communication, to show how, while joining with the Bishop in deploring the evil of liquor, I have arrived at a different conclusion from him as to how it is to be controlled and to demonstrate, if I may, that the position which I take is logical and consistent for one who regards, as I do, the prevention of human suffering as a paramount duty.

## Not in Controversy.

I trust that no one will interpret this attempt as controversial, for, to do so will be to miss the whole spirit of the thing which is rather self-explanatory in the hope that I can bring others to see the question from my viewpoint.

I am further impelled to present this argument because I hope that it will appeal to the Hawaiian people, who are fundamentally logical, and on whom will rest the responsibility of deciding, on the 26th of July, whether or no they, as a race, will take a leading place among those who put the prevention of suffering above all personal and material considerations.

## Ugly Facts in the World.

As a student of disease I have come to realize that there are some ugly facts in the world. Such facts do not obtrude themselves in all lives at all times and are consequently often overlooked in the discussion of problems in which they properly figure.

For example, if discussions as to the efficacy of vaccination for the prevention of smallpox could always take place in the ward of a smallpox hospital with unvaccinated children dying before the eyes of the disputants while vaccinated children played about in the same ward in perfect health for weeks at a time, unanimity of opinion would soon prevail. Similarly, if discussions on the liquor problem could begin in a saloon while a drunken brawl and stabbing affray was in progress; continue in the back room of a Chinese restaurant or a dance hall while girls were being plied with liquor as the readiest means to their seduction; adjourn to the delirium tremens ward of a general hospital, go from there to an alcoholic psychosis ward in an insane asylum; and be concluded in the corridor of a "murderers' row" in a prison; I think there would be few antiprohibitionists and fewer antitotal abstinents among the disputants.

There are ugly facts in the world and one of the ugliest of them is that much of the suffering in the world is preventable, but not prevented.

It can be taken as proved that the use and abuse of alcoholic beverages is the direct and the indirect cause of much suffering.

Drinking is admittedly a voluntary act and therefore the suffering due to alcoholic beverages is in the class of preventable suffering.

Every individual is bound to do what he can, to prevent suffering, just as he is bound to avoid voluntary acts which cause needless suffering. I see, therefore, no escape for the individual from his responsibility to do all that he can to prevent the use of alcoholic beverages which are a well-known cause of suffering.

## Two Courses of Action.

Two courses of action are clearly open to everyone by which he can discharge his responsibility in this regard. These are not alternatives but must both be pursued, for, failure to act in one of them makes the individual a party through inaction to an increase of the growing total of suffering due to the abuse of alcohol.

First, he can refuse to perform the voluntary act of using alcohol as a beverage and by his example can influence those with whom he comes in contact. This course is open to every individual and if adopted universally would solve the whole problem at once. It is a recognition of the fact that the logic of the situation forces him to be a total abstainer.

Secondly, he can exercise his power as a member of the community to promulgate laws which will prevent suffering by refusing to sanction the use, the sale and the manufacture of a poisonous habit-producing drug which is the cause of much suffering.

It is obvious that such laws if enforced would absolutely prevent much suffering.

## License a Subterfuge.

I can see no valid reason for trying to evade this issue by advocating a license system, for inasmuch as such a system means that the community sanctions the use, the manufacture and the sale of a cause of much suffering, an acquiescence in such a system by the individual, means consenting to the production of suffering under sanction of law. The logic of the situation then forces one to be not only a total abstainer but also an advocate of prohibition, provided, of course, that we still admit the premise of individual responsibility on which this argument is based.

The above discussion is in abstract terms and invites the cry of "visionary." This does not disturb me, for the things that are called "visions" in the discussion of social problems perform the same function there that the hypotheses do in scientific work, without which no progress can be made in either science or social betterment.

I wish to add certain rather practical points which even a proved visionary, who believes in total abstinence and in prohibition on logical grounds, may advance as pleas to be considered a commonsense and hard-headed practical person.

## Personal Liberty Versus Public Good.

It is often claimed that the use of alcoholic beverages can be safely left to the will of the individual, as is the consumption of beefsteak. This would be true if it were not for the ugly fact that alcohol is a poisonous habit-producing drug from the insidious effects of which the individual should be protected by the community for his own good and the safety of his family, associates and the public at large.

It is claimed that prohibition, even if a logically correct method of reducing the suffering due to the use of alcoholic beverages, is subversive of the doctrine of personal liberty. To those who advance this objection I would suggest that for practical purposes, in a self-governing community, personal liberty consists in those voluntary acts which the community does not consider it necessary to limit or forbid. If the community consider it expedient to forbid the voluntary act of drinking alcoholic beverages for the public good, I don't see what one is going to do about it, personal liberty or no personal liberty. This disposes of the personal liberty argument and emphasizes the responsibility of the individual to use his power as a lawmaker to prohibit the voluntary act of drinking alcoholic beverages so that suffering be decreased.

## Matter for Individuals.

It is likewise claimed that prohibition does not prevent the use of alcoholic beverages. This, if true, is not an argument against the obligation of the individual to do all in his power as an individual and as a voter to prevent the use, the sale and the manufacture of alcoholic beverages, by example and by law, and so I might justly disregard it, except that I would like to point out, as a practical person, that the prevention of suffering through the effective prohibition of the voluntary act of drinking alcoholic beverages by processes of law is simply an executive problem, intricate and difficult if you will, but, like all executive problems, it will find its solution by trial and not by discussion. Every time a community endeavors to prevent suffering by preventing the voluntary act of drinking, the solution of how to do this good thing effectively, comes appreciably nearer.

I rest the case for total abstinence and for prohibition upon the ugly fact that the suffering in the world, due to the use of alcoholic beverages, is inherently preventable and that we must attempt to prevent this suffering or frankly shoulder a part of the responsibility for the suffering due to the promiscuous dispensing of a poisonous habit-producing drug as a beverage.

The argument which runs through this communication is the result of some years of careful thought and epitomizes the mental steps by which I have reached a position where I feel that to be logical and consistent I must be a total abstainer and an advocate of prohibition.

George W. Smith, in a Portland interview, states that there will be no swine in Hawaii in spite of prohibition. He does not state that thimblet in any because of prohibition. The difference in the two ways of pig up their remarks the distinction between the man talking from conviction and a man talking because he is being paid to say something, even if it be in the kind of foolishness.